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# Brixham Urban District Council



A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SANITARY INSPECTOR

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REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF BRIXHAM FOR THE YEAR 1955

Mr. Chairman, Lady, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1955, in accordance with the instructions of the Minister of Health.

With regard to the Vital Statistics, I should like to draw your attention to one or two points. Firstly, there was an increase in the total number of births, from 99 in 1954 to 111, which gives corresponding increase in the Birth Rate from 11.14 per thousand population to 12.38 per thousand population - when this is corrected for age and sex distribution of the population for comparison purposes, the Birth Rate in 1955 becomes 13.86 per thousand population compared with a national figure of 15.0

The number of deaths dropped from 129 in 1954 to 116 last year, which gives a drop in the crude death rate from 14.51 per thousand population to 12.94. The corrected Death Rate was 9.44 comparing with 11.7 for England and Wales as a whole.

These variations have no special significance, however, as such fluctuations are to be expected when the statistics are obtained from small numbers.

There was an increase in the number of cases of infectious disease notified during the year, due to the expected biennial epidemic of measles, of which there were 233 cases. There were no deaths from infectious disease.

Thus the health of the District has continued at its normal level with no unusual deviations to disturb its equilibrium.

In conclusion I should like to record my thanks to the members of the Council, and in particular the Chairman and members of the Roads and Sanitary Committee for their encouragement and support. I should also like to record my grateful appreciation of the work and assistance I have received from your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Godfrey.

I have the honour to be  
Your obedient Servant,

D. K. MACTAGGART

Medical Officer of Health.

URBAN DISTRICT OF BRIKHAM

Chairman of the Council

Councillor A. E. Buley, J.P.

Public Health Committee

Councillor N. J. Lidstone (Chairman)

Councillors A. E. Buley, G. H. Blackmore, S. C. Goss, F. P. Lee  
C. M. Ashford, L. E. Brimecombe

Housing Committee

Councillor F. W. H. Park (Chairman)

Councillors A. E. Buley, G. H. Blackmore, Mrs. A. M. Park,  
N. J. Lidstone, G. R. Braddick, L. E. Brimecombe

Clerk and Solicitor of the Council

T. Owen Davies (Resigned June)  
W. A. Saxton

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health

"+ D. K. MacTaggart, M.A., M.B., Ch.B. (Aberd), D.P.H. (Lon)

Deputy Medical Officer of Health and Port  
Medical Officer

@+ J. I. Snodgrass, M.B., Ch.B.

Sanitary Inspector, Inspector of Meat and Foods, Port Health Inspector  
Housing Officer, Inspector under the Petroleum & Explosives Acts

"+ Francis Lawrence Godfrey, M.R.S.I., F.S.I.A.

Clerk and Typist for Medical Officer & Sanitary Inspector

@ Mrs. S. Michelmores.

@ Part time

" Whole time

+ Salary contribution by Exchequer Grants.

SECTION AGENERAL STATISTICS

Area of District .....	5,626	acres
Population, 1951 census .....	8,752	
Population, estimated mid-June 1955 .....	8,960	
Number of inhabited houses, 1955 .....	3,093	
Rateable Value of District at April 1st 1955		
Inside Harbour Rating area ..	£58,618	
Outside Harbour Rating Area .	<u>3,779</u>	£62,397

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VITAL STATISTICS, 1955

	Male	Female	Total
<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u> .....	59	52	111
Legitimate .....	59	51	110
Illegitimate .....	0	1	1
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population .....			12.38
Comparability Factor .....			1.12
Standardised Birth Rate .....			13.86
<u>STILL BIRTHS</u> .....	2	1	3
Legitimate .....	2	1	3
Illegitimate .....	0	0	0
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 live and still births .....			26.32
<u>DEATHS</u> .....	54	62	116
Comparability Factor .....			0.73
True Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population .....			12.94
Death Rate standardised accor- ding to age and sex of resident population .....			9.44
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age .....	0	0	0
Death Rate of infants under 1 year, per 1,000 live births ..			0.00
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks	0	0	0
Death rate of infants under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births			0.00



Deaths from Pueperal causes:

4

Puerperal Sepsis .....	0
Other Pueperal causes .....	0
Death Rate per 1,000 live and still births .....	0

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Pneumonia .....	1
Anterio Polionyelitis ...	2
Measles .....	223
Scarlet Fever .....	0
Erysipelas .....	0
Whooping Cough .....	0
Dysentery .....	0
Food Poisoning .....	0
	<hr/> 226

Cases removed to Torquay Isolation Hospital .... 2

Age per- iods	TUBERCULOSIS 1955							
	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0								
1								
5			1					
15				1				
25		2	1	1				
35		1						
45								
55		1						
65 and upwards								
		4	2	2				

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1955 (as supplied by the Registrar General)

Diseases	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, respiratory .....	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, other .....	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease .....	-	-	-
Diphtheria .....	-	-	-
Whooping Cough .....	-	-	-
Meningo-coccal infections .....	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	-	-	-
Measles .....	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases .....	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach .....	3	1	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus .....	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast .....	-	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus .....	-	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms .....	4	3	7
Leukaemia, aleukamia .....	-	-	-
Diabetes .....	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system .....	11	15	26
Coronary disease, angina .....	6	5	11
Hyper-tension with heart disease .....	-	1	1
Other heart disease .....	3	9	12
Other circulatory disease .....	8	5	13
Influenza .....	-	-	-
Pneumonia .....	-	2	2
Bronchitis .....	4	1	5
Other diseases of respiratory system .....	-	-	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .....	1	-	1
Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea .....	-	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis .....	3	1	4
Hyperplasia of prostate .....	-	-	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .....	-	-	-
Congenital malformations .....	-	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases .....	7	14	21
Motor vehicle accidents .....	1	-	1
All other accidents .....	3	1	4
Suicide .....	-	-	-
Homicide and operations of war .....	-	-	-
	54	62	116

SECTION BGENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Staff Full particulars of the staff, together with qualifications are given on page 2.

Laboratory Facilities Pathological specimens, and samples of milk, water, ice-cream and shell-fish, are sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Service Laboratory, at 7 Dix's Field, Exeter (Tel; Exeter 54959)

In addition specimens for clinical pathology and bacteriology are also dealt with at the Pathology Laboratory, Torbay Hospital, Torquay.

The chemical analysis of water and other samples is undertaken by Messrs. Tickle and Reynolds, Public Analysts, 83/84 Queen Street, Exeter.

Home Help Service This is a service provided by the County Council through the local W.V.S. It aims to provide domestic help where required by reason of sickness, pregnancy, etc.

The Home Help Organiser for the District is Mrs. M. R. Powell, W.V.S., Town Hall, Brixham.

Hospitals South-Western Regional Hospital Board. Torquay and District Hospital Management Committee.

The Brixham Cottage Hospital situated in Greenswood Road is a general hospital with an establishment of 18 beds.

The District is also served for general cases by the Torbay Hospital, Torquay, whilst cases of infectious disease are received at the Isolation Hospital, Torquay.

Ambulance Service This service is under the general direction of the County Medical Officer (Ambulance Section) "Ivybank" 45 St. Davids Hill, Exeter (Telephone Exeter 74051). The Brixham Ambulance Station is situated near the Hospital, in Bolton Street (Telephone Brixham 2231)

For infectious disease (other than smallpox), ambulance arrangements are made by the Torquay Isolation Hospital (Telephone Torquay 63276) for cases entering the Hospital from the Brixham area.



Nursing in the Home This service is provided by the Local Health Authority (Devon County Council) the following nurses carrying out the duties in the Brixham District:-

Miss N. Blake, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., Midwife,  
Flat 2, Trelawn, Windmill Road, Brixham. Tel: 2311

Miss E. Warden, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., Midwife.  
"Fourways" Dashpers, Brixham. Tel: 2035

Mrs. K. Jackson, S.R.N., S.C.M., Nurse Midwife,  
Flat 1, "Trelawn" Windmill Road, Brixham. Tel: 3275.

S.R.N. - State Registered Nurse  
S.C.M. - State Certified Midwife  
Q.N. - Queen's Nurse.

Health Visitor. There is one Health Visitor for the District, Miss L. Gilbert, who is on the staff of the County Medical Department.

Mental Health The responsibility for the investigation, supervision of cases, and other action under the Lunacy, Mental Treatment, and Mental Deficiency Acts and Regulations rests upon two duly authorised officers.

They are Miss O. F. Evans, The Mount Penn Lane, Brixham, and Mr. W. J. Gliddon, of 24 Rea Barn Road, Brixham.

National Assistance Acts 1948/51. No action was taken under Section 47 of the Act of 1948.

### SECTION C

RAINFALL The following figures have kindly been furnished by the Water Engineer, Mr. H. W. Holmes:

January .....	6.24 inches	July .....	2.60 inches
February .....	4.17 inches	August .....	0.08 inches
March .....	1.91 inches	September .....	1.48 inches
April .....	1.11 inches	October .....	3.95 inches
May .....	4.0 inches	November .....	4.77 inches
June .....	2.99 inches	December .....	6.47 inches

Total .... 39.77 inches

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREAANNUAL REPORT of the SANITARY INSPECTOR  
for the year ending 31st December  
1955

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I herewith present my Thirtieth Annual Report, as required by the Minister of Health.

Yours faithfully,

F. L. GODFREY,

Sanitary Inspector and  
Inspector of Meat & Foods.

DRAINS AND DRAINAGE

Drains examined .....	159
Defective Drains repaired or renewed .....	35
Existing W.C.'s fitted with flushing cisterns or cisterns renewed .....	17
Defective traps renewed or replaced with approved stoneware gully traps .....	9
Defective W.C.'s repaired .....	11
Automatic cisterns fixed .....	3
The following sanitary fittings have been installed during the year:	
New baths .....	129
W.C.'s .....	258
Lavatory basins .....	289
Urinals .....	13
Scullery sinks .....	179
Septic tanks .....	11

73 houses and flats (including Council houses) were completed during the year and considerable time was given to the supervision of the design and construction of drainage systems. The tests and inspections carried out are classified as follows:

<u>New Buildings:</u> Tests of drainage .....	91
<u>Existing buildings:</u> Tests of drainage .....	45

Choked Drains Informal action was taken in 17 instances to secure clearance of drainage obstructions. The Council does not undertake to clear drainage stoppages, and owners are advised to make private arrangements with local building contractors.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

18 rooms, involving 15 premises, were treated for the following reasons:

Notifiable Disease (excluding Tuberculosis) .....	2
Tuberculosis .....	4
Verminous Conditions .....	12

The following articles were destroyed:

Mattresses .....	26
Pillows .....	4
Sheets .....	6
Bolsters .....	2
Blankets .....	10
Other Articles .....	17
	<u>65</u>

Library books fumigated totalled 16.

ERADICATION OF BED-BUGS.

The methods employed for the eradication of bed-bugs are:

- (a) Using Gas Blocks for large infestations. This necessitates sealing the premises for one day.
- (b) Using Powder with Blower Spray.
- (c) Spraying with "Zaldecide" Solution.
- (d) Application of D.D.T. Spray and Powder.

	Infested	Disinfested
(i) Council Houses .....	-	-
(ii) Other houses .....	2	2

RODENT CONTROL

Treatments to private houses are free of charge, but business premises are charged at the rate of 3s. 6d. per hour.

The following table shows the incidence of infestation and action taken, under the provisions of The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, and is based upon the twelve monthly return submitted to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:



	Type of Property				Total	Agricultural
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	All other including Business and Industrl.			
1. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District (Notes 1 and 2)	4	3,162	470	3,636	45	
2. Number of properties inspected by Local Authority during 1955 as a result of (a) notification or (b) survey or otherwise (Notes 1, 2, 3)	(a) 4 (b) -	106 106	4 71	110 177	- -	
3. Number of properties (under section 2) found to be infested with rats) (Notes 1, 2, 3)	Maj 4 Min -	54	25	83	-	
4. Number of properties (under section 2) inspected which were found to be seriously infested with mice (Notes 1, 2, 3)	Maj - Min -	43	10	53	-	
5. Number of infested properties (under Sections 3 & 4) treated by the Local Authority (Notes 1, 2 and 3)						
6. Number of Notices served under Section 4: (1) Treatment	4	97	35	136	-	
(2) Structural works (i.e. proofing)	-	-	-	-	-	
7. Number of cases in which default action was taken by L.A. following issue of Notice un S4.	-	-	-	-	-	
8. Legal Proceedings	-	-	-	-	-	
9. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out	47	-	-	-	-	

Note 1 (a) With the exception of agricultural properties, a property means one which is entered in the Valuation Roll for the area (b) Only properties devoted to agricultural or horticultural production in respect of which returns are made under the Agricultural Act 1947 should be entered as Agricultural properties.

Note 2 (a) Council houses should be entered in Column (2) (b) Premises used by the Local Authority for the purposes of trade should be entered in column 3 (c) Sewers should not be included (d) Combined dwelling and business premises where occupied by the same person should be regarded as business premises, and should be entered in column 3. Where the dwelling and business parts of the premises are in separate occupation, separate entries should be made in Columns 2 and 3.

Note 3. For the purpose of completing Sections 2, 3, 4, and 5 each property should be entered once only in respect of inspections, infestations and treatments.



# FACTORIES ACT 1937

71 Inspections were made in respect of 43 premises listed in the Factories Register. The following tabular return for the year was made to the Ministry of Labour and National Service.

## 1. Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	No. on Regi- ster (3)	Number of		
			Inspe- ctions (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecu- ted (6)
1. Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Auth.	1	14	17	2	-
2. Factories not included in 1. in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Auth.	2	24	29	1	-
3. Other premises in which S.7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	2	2	-	-
		40	48	3	-

Note (1) Refers to factories in which mechanical power is not used.

## 2. Cases in which Defects were found

Particulars	M/c line No.	Number of cases in which defects were				No. of cases in which pro- secutions were in- stituted
		Found	Remedied	Referred		
				To HM insp- ector	By HM Insp- ector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Want of cleanliness (s1)	4	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (s2)	5	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S3)	6	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S4)	7	1	1	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	8	1	1	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S7)						
(a) Insufficient	9	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defect.	10	2	2	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL		4	4	-	-	-

SHOPS ACT, 1950

Informal action was taken in respect of 8 premises as follows:

Provide washing facilities and sanitary accommodation .....	3
Repair and re-decorate sanitary accommodation .....	4
Provide sufficient ventilationx.....	1

CAMPING SITES

The average number of campers in the area during the last week of July was 5,651 adults; 1,135 children; 90 members of youth organisations, contained in 638 chalets; 816 caravans; 584 tents.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

There has been no smoke nuisance in the area during the period under review

SWIMMING POOL

There is one sea water swimming pool in the Urban Area.

SCHOOLS

The Sanitary conditions and water supplies of schools within the area remain unchanged.

OLD METAL OR MARINE STORE DEALERS.

One person is registered as a Dealer in Old Metal under Section 86 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Licence renewals were granted to the original applicants in respect of 3 premises required to be licensed under the Act.

RAG FLOCK ACT, 1951

Three premises are registered under the Act. No premises are licensed for the manufacture or storage of Rag Flock.

HEATING APPLIANCES (FIREGUARDS) ACT, 1952

Inspections have been made for the purpose of carrying out the duties of this Act, by the Surveyor's Department.

SECTION D.HOUSING

Number of new houses erected during the year:

(a) Total (including the number given separate under (b))

I	By Local Authority:	
	Two bedrooned houses .....	20
	Three-bedroomed houses .....	6
	Four-bedroomed houses .....	0
II	By other authorities .....	0
III	By other bodies or persons .....	47

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:

1	By the Local Authority .....	26
(a)	For the purpose of Part II of the Housing Act, 1925 .....	0
(b)	For the purpose of Part III of the Housing Act, 1925 .....	0
(c)	For other bodies .....	0

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health Act or Housing Acts) .....	96
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ....	145
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under the Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 .....	32
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....	4
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	53

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers .....	37
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## 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:

(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs .....	17
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(i)	By Owners .....	17
(ii)	Local Authorities in default of Owners .....	0
(b)	Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .....	12
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(i)	By Owners .....	12
(ii)	By Local Authorities in default of owners ..	-
(c)	Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .....	-
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .....	-
(d)	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ....	-
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit ...	-

## 4. Housing Act, 1936: Part IV: Overcrowding:

(a)	(1)	Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year .....	5
	(2)	Number of families therein .....	7
	(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein .....	32
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year .....	3
(c)	(1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year	3
	(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases .....	11



- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding .....;..... -
- (c) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ..... -

### HOUSING ACTS 1949/52

Six applications for financial assistance towards improvement of housing accommodation were granted during the year.

### HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954.

No certificates of disrepair were issued during the year.

## SECTION E

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

#### MILK SUPPLY

The Special Designated Milks on sale in the area are Tuberculin Tested and Pasteurised. Sterilised Milk is not retailed in Brixham.

Dairies and Distributors There is one dairy registered and thirty-three persons are registered as distributors of milk.

#### MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

There is no slaughtering except for Casuals in the District. All meat is received from outside the District.

#### Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Tuberculosis lbs.	Other Diseases & Conditions lbs	Total lbs
Beef		62	62
Mutton		28	28
Pork		150	150
Offals		12	12
Totals		252	252

The total weight of meat and offals condemned was 252 lbs.

Inspection of other FoodsUnsound Food List of canned foods rejected:

Meats .....	114	
Vegetables .....	11	
Fruit .....	70	
Soup .....	1	
Milk .....	5	
Fish .....	7	
Preserves and Pickles .....	13	
Frozen Eggs .....	<u>1</u>	142

## Weight of foods rejected:

Meat .....	337	lbs
Snoked Bacon .....	96	lbs
Dried Fruits .....	27	lbs
Fresh Fruit .....		lbs
Vegetables .....		lbs
Margarine .....	42	lbs
Fish .....	167	lbs

Diseases of Animals Act, 1950

One case was reported during the year.

The Ice Crean (Heat Treatment etc.) Amendnment Regulations, 1952

These Regulations allow a high temperature short time heat treatment as contrasted with a longer time at a lower temperature but special apparatus has to be installed to ensure adequate thermostatic control, the maintenance of an even rate of flow during the heat treatment, and an automatic device to divert any mixture which has not been raised to the prescribed temperature.

There is no installation of this type in the District

Shellfish

Four samples of crab meat were taken during the year. The results of the canned crab processed at the local factory were very satisfactory

CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGNS.The number of food premises in the area, by type of business

There are 107 food premises in the area, comprising:

Grocers and Greengrocers .....	19
Restaurants, Cafes, and Snack Bars .....	26
Fishmongers:	
Wet .....	3
Fried .....	3
Stalls, shell-fish .....	2
Butchers .....	8
Baker/Pastrycook Retail Shops .....	5
Bakehouses and Patisseries .....	5
Mineral Water and Beer Bottling Establishments .....	2
Licensed Premises:	
Public .....	19
Clubs .....	5
Hotels .....	2
Wines and Spirits .....	4
Shellfish Processors .....	2
Confectioners .....	

The number of food premises, by type, registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and the number of dairies Registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

There are 82 vendors and manufacturers registered for the sale or manufacture of ice-cream. The types of premises retailing this commodity are as follows:

Grocers .....	4
Grocers/Greengrocers .....	4
Greengrocers/Fruiterers .....	6
Tobacconist/Confectioners .....	10
Confectioner/Greengrocer/Fruiterer .....	4
General Stores .....	13
Kiosks .....	4
Multiple Stores .....	3
Holiday Camp Shops, Cafes .....	12

In addition to the above ice-cream is retailed at 22 restaurants, and snackbars, 1 cinema.

20 premises are registered for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale. These comprise: 5 Bakehouses; 8 butchers; 3 Fish Fryers; 4 Grocers. There is one dairy registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 and one milk bank Depot.



### The number of inspections of registered food premises

Of the 458 inspections of all types of food establishments listed below, 276 inspections were made in respect of registered premises:

Restaurants, Cafes, and Shack Bars .....	57
Bakehouses .....	10
Bakers, Confectioners Shops .....	48
Hotel and Guest House Kitchens .....	26
Butchers .....	44
Grocers/Greengrocers .....	107
Ice Cream Vendors and Manufacturers .....	35
Dairies .....	6
Wet and Fried Fish Shops .....	19
Shellfish Dealers .....	25
Cooked Meat Vendors .....	16
Licensed Premises .....	10
Mineral Water and Beer Bottling Establishments ...	2
Mobile Canteens .....	1
Mobile Fish Friers .....	--
Food Delivery Vans and Itinerant Vendors .....	6

### The Method of disposal of condemned foods.

All foodstuffs are disposed of under supervision at the Council's refuse tip.

Where special examination of a stock or of a consignment of food has been necessary, the total quantity as well as the quantity  
Condemned

No special examination of a stock or consignment of food was necessary during the year.

### FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS.

The following annual return, in accordance with circular 46/49, Memo 188/Med has been submitted to the Ministry of Health:

Total Number of out- breaks	Number of cases	Number of Deaths	Organisms or other agents responsible with number of out- breaks of each	Foods involved with number of outbreaks of each
--	--	--	--	--



19.

SECTION G

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1927 AND 1936

22 Licences to store 4,318,490 gallons of petroleum were issued.

EXPLOSIVES ACTS, 1875 AND 1923

23 Licences were issued for the storage of gunpowder and mixed explosives.

Classification of Stores

Explosives in magazine - Mode "A"	-	nil
Explosives in magazine - Mode "B"	-	two
Shops for the sale of Class 6		
Division 3 explosives - cartridges	-	two
Shops for the sale of Class 7		
Division 2 explosives - fireworks	-	nineteen

SECTION HHOUSINGSUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT AND WORK OF THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT - 1955

Number of dwelling-houses completed during the year 1955:

	Council	Private
Detached houses .....	-	9
Seni-detached houses .....	-	10
Terrace houses .....	24	1
Bungalows .....	-	15
Seni-detached bungalows .....	-	4
Semi-bungalows .....	-	8
Flats .....	2	-
	26	47
Total number of dwelling-houses completed during year ..		73
Number of houses built during the year for working classes:		
For Local Authority .....		26
By Private effort .....		47
Number of new houses or flats required for working classes ..		130
Houses inspected .....		96
Defective houses repaired .....		28
Defective floors repaired .....		5
Defective roofs repaired or renewed .....		17
Defective yards paved .....		2
Defective external plastering renewed .....		14
Defective internal plastering renewed .....		21
Defective windows repaired .....		9
Defective stoves repaired .....		2
Number of houses dealt with under Housing (Rural Workers) Act, 1926		
During year .....		0
Total to date .....		23

PORT HEALTH DISTRICT OF BRIXHAM

A N N U A L       R E P O R T    O F

the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

---  
1955  
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PORT HEALTH DISTRICT OF BRIXHAM.

This report is based on the instructions of the Ministry of Health contained in Circulars 33/52 and 16/55, and follows the arrangement detailed in Form Port 20.

SECTION 1 - STAFF

Name of Officer	Nature of Appointment	Date of Appointment	Qualifications	Any other appointments held
D. K. MacTaggart	Medical Officer of Health	1954	M.A., M.B., Ch.B. (Aberd) D.P.H. (Lond)	Medical Officer of Health for Paignton and Borough of Dartmouth
J. I. Snodgrass	Deputy M.O.H. and Port Medical Officer	-	M.B., Ch.B.	Private Practice
F. L. Godfrey	Sanitary Inspector	1926	M.R.S.I. F.S.I.A.	

Clerks: Mrs. S. Michelmores, Mrs. S. Beaumont.

Address and telephone number of the Medical Officer of Health:  
Town Hall, Brixham. Tel. No. Brixham 2206.

SECTION II - AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE DISTRICT  
DURING THE YEAR

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number of ships reported as having had during the voyage infectious disease on board
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector	
Foreign Ports	353	97,382	1	9	
Coastwise	429	107,812	3	27	
TOTAL	782	205,194	4	36	



### SECTION III - CHARACTER OF SHIPPING AND TRADE DURING THE YEAR

TABLE C

Passenger Traffic	{	Number of passengers INWARDS	-	34
		Number of passengers OUTWARDS	-	Nil
Cargo Traffic	{	Principal IMPORTS	-	Oil
		Principal EXPORTS	-	Oil, Fish, Lime stone

Principal Ports from which ships arrived in 1955 - Boulogne,  
Ostend

### SECTION IV - INLAND BARGE TRAFFIC

There is no inland barge traffic in the area.

### SECTION V - WATER SUPPLY

(1) Sources of supply for (a) The District and (b) Shipping.

(a) The water supply is from springs in the area and also from the Paignton Water Undertaking. The water is stored, filtered, and chlorinated.

(b) The port is supplied by a Special main along the quays to which stand pipes can be attached at various points.

(2) Reports of tests for contamination:

Sanples are taken regularly from the service reservoir, and from a tap served by the main. The reports for the treated water were satisfactory.

(3) Precautions taken against contamination of hydrants and hosepipes:

Hydrants and hosepipes are kept in lockers when not in use.

(4) Number and sanitary condition of water boats, and powers of control by the Authority.

There are no water boats.

## SECTION VI - PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1952

- (1) List of infected areas (Regulation 6)  
Arrangements for the preparation and amendment of the list,  
the form of the list, the persons to whom it is supplied,  
and the procedure in supplying it to those persons.

The list of infected areas sent by the Ministry is noted at the Public Health Department. It is then delivered to the Customs Officer who retains it for a week before returning it to the Public Health Department.

- (2) Radio messages.

- (a) Arrangements for sending permission by radio for ships to enter the District (Regulation 13)

The Post Office will make the necessary arrangements for transmission of written messages if required.

- (b) Arrangements for receiving messages by radio from ships and for acting thereon (Regulation 14(1) (a) and (2)).

These messages are received through Niton radio and passed on to H.M. Customs at Dartmouth, who in turn telephone the Public Health Department.

- (3) Notification otherwise than by radio (Regulation 14(1) (b)).  
Arrangements for receiving notifications otherwise than by  
radio and for acting thereon.

The Coastguard Station on Berry Head receives all communications by semaphore, morse, and international code of signals. The messages are then passed on to the Medical Officer of Health.

- (4) Mooring Stations. (Regulations 22 to 30). Situation of Stations, and any other standing directions issued under these Regulations.

There is no quarantine buoy, but a quarantine anchorage is available at a position some 2,000 feet off the point of the Breakwater and 1,000 feet off Fishcombe Point. The exact location of the anchorage is marked on charts in the possession of the Customs Officer and the Harbour Master.

## (5) Arrangements for:

- (a) Hospital accommodation for infectious cases (other than Smallpox - See Section VII)

Cases of infectious disease are admitted to Torquay Isolation Hospital.

- (b) Surveillance and follow-up of contacts.

This is carried out by the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector. Declarations of Health are handed to the Masters of ships on arrival, by the staff of H.M. Customs and the boats of the local coaling company are available for boarding vessels.

In cases in which persons have to be notified as proceeding to this area from a vessel on which infectious disease has occurred, it is the practice of the Medical Officer of Health to examine the person on arrival, and at intervals as required by the regulations.

- (c) Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons, clothing and other articles.

The disinfection of cabins, bunks etc. is carried out by the Public Health Department, whilst the disinfection of clothes bedding, and other articles is done in the Steam Disinfector at Paignton.

By arrangement with the Torquay Health Department, the cleansing of persons is carried out at their cleansing station.

#### SECTION VII - SMALLPOX.

- (1) Name of Isolation Hospital to which Smallpox cases are sent from the District:

Upton Pyne Smallpox Hospital, Nr. Exeter.

- (2) Arrangements for transport of such cases to that Hospital by Ambulance, giving the name of the Authority responsible for the ambulance and the vaccinal state of the crews:

Arrangements are made by telephone message to the Resident Physician at Whipton Isolation Hospital, Exeter. The vehicle is supplied by Exeter City Health Department and is staffed by the Hospital. All members of the crew are vaccinated regularly.



## (3) Names of Smallpox Consultants available:

The Consultants are: Dr. C. Seward, Exeter. Mr.  
Dr. W. J. Laird, Exeter.

## (4) Facilities for laboratory diagnosis of Smallpox.

Specimens are sent to the Central Public Health Laboratory  
(Virus Reference) Colindale, Hendon, London N.W.4.

SECTION VIII - VENEREAL DISEASE

Information as to the location, days and hours of the available facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease among merchant seamen under international arrangements, including in-patient treatment and the steps taken to make these facilities known to seamen.

Facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease among seamen are available at the Torbay Hospital, Torquay, at Clinics held on Wednesdays at 5.30 p.m. - 7.30 p.m., In-patient treatment is given at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, Exeter.

Leaflets are circulated among ships crews with this information

SECTION IX - CASES OF NOTIFIABLE AND OTHER  
INFECTIOUS DISEASES ON SHIPS.TABLE D

Category	Dis- ease.	No. of cases during the year		No. of ships concerned
		Passengers	Crew	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports	-	-	-	-
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival	-	-	-	-
Cases landed from other ports	-	-	-	-

a short account should be given of the measures taken on the arrival by ship of (a) any case of smallpox, cholera, plague, yellow fever, typhus, or relapsing fever included in Table D (b) any suspected case of any such disease.

NIL

SECTION X - OBSERVATIONS OF THE OCCURRENCE OF MALARIA IN SHIPS

NIL

SECTION XI - MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST SHIPS INFECTED WITH OR SUSPECTED FOR PLAGUE

NIL

SECTION XII - MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

(1) Procedure for inspection of ships for rats:

The Sanitary Inspector makes enquiries of masters of ships as to the presence of, or undue mortality among rats. He also inspects ships, quays, wharves and stores at regular intervals for signs of the presence of rats.

(2) Arrangements for the Bacteriological or Pathological examination of rodents with special reference to rodent plague, including the number of rodents sent for examination during the year.

These examinations are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service, 7 Dix's Field, Exeter.

No rodents were sent for examination.

(3) Arrangements in the District for de-ratting ships, the methods used, and, if done by a commercial contractor, the name of the contractor.

Arrangements are made for this service to be carried out at Plymouth.

(4) Progress in the rat-proofing of ships.

This has not been required owing to the limited nature of shipping entering the port.

TABLE E

Rodents destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports.

Category	Number
Black rats	Nil
Brown rats	Nil
Species not known	Nil
Sent for examination	Nil
Infected with plague	Nil

235 Brown rats and 7 black rats were killed in the quays, wharves and stores of the Harbour.

TABLE F

De-ratting Certificates and De-ratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year for ships from foreign ports.

Brixham is not an approved port under Article 52 of the International Sanitary Regulations.

SECTION XIII - INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR NUISANCES.

TABLE G

Inspections and Notices

Nature and Number of Inspections		Notices served		Result of serving notices
		Statutory Notices	Other Notices	
General	36	-	-	-
TOTAL	36			



SECTION XIV - PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELLFISH) REGULATIONS 1934 AND 1948

Information respecting any shellfish beds or layings within the jurisdiction of the Authority stating whether they are, in the opinion of the Medical Officer of Health, liable to pollution. A report of any action taken, which should state whether any prohibited area has been prescribed, should be included.

There are no shellfish beds or layings within the area.

SECTION XV - MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS.

Brixham is not a port approved under the Aliens Order, 1920

SECTION XVI - MISCELLANEOUS.

Arrangements for the burial on shore of persons who have died on board ship from infectious disease.

The bodies of persons who have died on board ship would be removed to the Council's Mortuary in Bolton Street, pending interment or cremation. Any precautions necessary according to the type of disease would be carried out.

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I wish to express my thanks to the Sanitary Inspector for his assistance, and to the Officers of H.M. Customs and the Harbour Master for their co-operation.

D. K. MACTAGGART

Medical Officer of Health.







